

City of Minneapolis

Department of Public Works: Division of Solid Waste & Recycling



A little help to make our city shine.

Program: The Clean City Program is operated out of Minneapolis' Solid Waste & Recycling Division. Clean City provides services to maintain the cleanliness and livability of the city.

Clean City offers various programs for residents to get involved in keeping their city clean. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Adopt-A-Street/Highway
- Adopt-A-Block
- Adopt-A-Litter Container
- Adopt-An-Ash Receptacle
- Dirty Collection Point Cleanup
- Graffiti Abatement
- Graffiti Paint Over
- Neighborhood CleanSweep



Container or Street Adoption: How Programs Work: Residents request to adopt containers or adopt city streets. Containers are placed in high traffic areas where collection will benefit the neighborhood. By agreeing to adopt, residents agree to service, monitor and maintain the cleanliness of the container or adopted area. Residents can empty the containers themselves or decide to have City staff service the containers for a fee based on pickup frequency.

Program History and Fun Facts:

Adopt-A-Street/Highway was introduced in the Spring of 1997 as a joint partnership between Hennepin County Commissioners and the City of Minneapolis. Each year the Adopt-A-Street/Highway program helps keep 189 linear blocks of street in Minneapolis free of litter.

Adopt-A-Block also began in Spring 1997 as a City initiative for cleaner communities. In 2014, residents kept 91 square blocks in Minneapolis clean.



Adopt-A-Litter Container was introduced in the Summer of 1999 as a partnership between the City of Minneapolis and residents or business owners to help keep Minneapolis litter free. As of 2014, 856 Adopt-A-Litter containers have been placed in 66 Minneapolis neighborhoods and helps reduce litter.



Adopt-An-Ash Receptacle was introduced in 2009 as part of an anti-cigarette litter campaign. As of 2014, 148 Adopt-An-Ash Receptacles have been placed in 33 different Minneapolis neighborhoods which helps prevent cigarette butts from entering the City's sewer system.

City of Minneapolis—Solid Waste & Recycling Division

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Graffiti Abatement and Graffiti Paint Over Programs: Graffiti on public property has been handled by Solid Waste and Recycling staff since the mid-1990's. In 2006, the graffiti program was expanded to include both public and private property.

Graffiti Abatement Program:

- Covers all public and private buildings
- All graffiti is photographed and recorded in graffiti database
- Daily updates given to Police Department
- Owner of property is given 7 days to paint over or clean off graffiti
- City staff clean graffiti
- Owner of property is charged for the cleanup work
- Ordinances enacted to reduce graffiti purchasing abilities
- Micro-grants for graffiti prevention (examples shown on right)
 - Anti-graffiti education
 - Paint murals
 - Place photo wraps on electrical boxes
 - Plant vegetation



Graffiti Paint Over Program: As an initiative to eliminate graffiti, the Graffiti Paint Over program provides paint and other graffiti removal supplies to anyone willing to participate in abating graffiti from public properties.

Fun Fact: Over the years, Minneapolis has changed laws to make it more difficult for minors to obtain graffiti supplies by requiring businesses to store aerosol spray paint and other graffiti items in visual observation at all times. The law also requires IDs for purchase of these items. An additional law made the parent or guardian of a person under age 18 liable for the penalty of a minor possessing graffiti materials.

Neighborhood CleanSweeps: Introduced in 1995 as a partnership between neighborhood groups and the City of Minneapolis, the Neighborhood CleanSweep program was created to strengthen community pride and encourage community led cleanup activities. During Neighborhood CleanSweep events, a City garbage truck and crew are brought to the neighborhood. The neighborhood organization or event organizer agrees to pay an hourly rate for the City crew's time and the SW&R Division will cover the cost of disposing the items collected. Neighborhood volunteers help residents bring unwanted items out of their home to the truck for collection.

Fun Fact: The Neighborhood CleanSweep program collects an average of 74 tons of garbage, 12 tons of scrap metal, and 300 tires from Minneapolis neighborhoods annually.

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